



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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ASMFC Board Approves Addendum IV to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass FMP *States Establish Timely Process for Setting Annual Management Measures*

Arlington, Virginia – The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission yesterday approved Addendum IV to the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which formalizes a process for the states to set annual management measures for state summer flounder, scup and black sea bass fisheries in a timely manner. Addendum IV gives the states and the Commission the authority and the responsibility for determining necessary state action to implement the FMP.

Prior to this Addendum, the Management Board would make an annual recommendation on total allowable landings (TALs) and the commercial and recreational management measures intended to achieve the TALs to the Regional Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Regional Administrator then would make a final decision on the annual specifications, which became a mandatory compliance element that the states were bound to implement. Under Addendum IV, the states are now bound to implement the decision of the Management Board rather than the final rule as published by the Regional Administrator.

The Commission developed the Addendum to address a number of problems that have occurred in recent years. The most pressing issue has been the lack of timeliness in the Regional Administrator's publication of the final regulations. This has resulted in the states having to find ways to implement rules to conserve and manage their fisheries while waiting for the federal regulations to come into effect. Also, in a number of instances, the state and federal management programs have been inconsistent. This Addendum gives the states, acting through the Management Board, the necessary authority to establish compliance criteria consistent with the state management program for summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.

Copies of Addendum IV will be available in late February and can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's website at <http://www.asmfc.org>. For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

NOTE TO PRESS: If you would like to receive the Commission's press releases via email, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs & Resource Specialist, at tberger@asmfc.org or fax to (202) 289-6051.

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The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.